

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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FRIDAY.....OCTOBER 27, 1899.

DEMOCRATIC DUTY.

Under the caption, "A Word to Democrats," the Lynchburg News treats the independent movement in a calm, conservative, but none the less forcible, way. Its article is pregnant with suggestions to which all Democrats should give thoughtful consideration.

First addressing itself to the necessity for party vigilance and discipline, the News notes that there is little or no excitement in the present campaign, and that as a rule the people seem to be indifferent about the approaching election, and then says:

"The apparent indifference arises from the general conviction that Democratic ascendancy in the State is not in danger. This may be true enough. But in politics, as in war, it is not well to be too confident. A relaxation of vigilance always furnishes the enemy an opportunity to gain some advantage. If Democrats stay at home on election day, believing that their votes are not needed, they may wake up the next morning to find that the enemy has stolen a march upon them."

No argument is necessary to establish the truth of this contention. Aforetime seats in the General Assembly have been lost to the Democrats owing to the existence of just the conditions the News describes. And a little advantage gained by the enemy here, and a little there, may develop into a big advantage, before we know it. The Republicans are ceaselessly on the watch to turn these little advantages to account.

Next, in continuing the discussion of this branch of its subject, the News calls attention to the number of independent and Republican candidates in the field, and adds:

"The individual voter may say to himself, 'Oh, there is no danger of such a result; my vote cannot be missed. Other Democrats will save the State.' Now, if one Democrat can act this way, why cannot others? Why cannot all others?"

Precisely. What is the privilege of the individual Democrat in the matter of disregarding his obligation to his party and the best interests of the Commonwealth is the privilege of the mass of Democrats. And, obviously, what is the obligation of the mass of Democrats is the obligation of the individual Democrat.

Other points made by our Lynchburg contemporaries are these:

"The only safe rule is for every man to do his patriotic duty and go to the polls on election day and deposit his ballot for the regular nominees, because no independent has a right to claim Democratic support. By becoming an independent candidate, he is doing what he can to break down the Democratic organization and aiding to build up the Republican party."

Precisely, again. Independence is, in its practical operation, nothing more nor less than Republicanism in disguise. The mission of the independent is to prepare the ground for the sowing of Republican seeds, and it, as the News claims—and we hold that experience has established the claim beyond question—the continued ascendancy of the Democratic party is essential to the best interests of Virginia—the rule of Democratic duty laid down by our contemporary is the only rule by which any Democrat can walk without stultifying himself. In conclusion, the News says:

"It is true that every citizen has the legal right to stay at home on election day or to bolt his party nominations. But every Democrat should seriously consider whether he has the moral right to do that which would tend to break up the party to which Virginia owes her present domestic peace and prosperity."

There is no doubt as to the soundness of both of these propositions. But there is also no doubt that the moral issue presented in the second should determine the course of every Democrat. And, notwithstanding the lack of excitement in the campaign, if the moral obligation shall have the weight it should have, all will be well.

ITCH OR NOT?

Here and there in this State a disease has appeared which by some is supposed to be the small-pox in mild form, and by others is believed to be Cuban itch.

It is not for us to say that the Cuban itch does not prevail anywhere in Virginia, but it is a fact that many cases of itch, so called, have within the past twelve months been identified as small-pox. So, too, in respect of a number of cases which were taken for German measles.

In matters of this kind, it is better to know the truth, at once, and where the local physicians are in doubt specialists

sought to be summoned. While it is a fact that the new fangled small-pox is very mild, indeed, in its effects, that it is small-pox still cannot be denied—unless, indeed, inexpert persons are prepared to stand up and put their judgment against the judgment of men who have made life-long study of small-pox.

We see, too, that quarantines are being established in some neighborhoods. There are quarantines and quarantines. No community can be blamed for keeping a sharp lookout for small-pox suspects, but to make a hard and fast rule against persons going from one county to another would work grievous hardship in many instances. Where a community gets "wiped" upon this subject it is pretty good proof that it has neglected the duty of vaccination. Where there has been general vaccination, it is impossible to throw the community into a panic. But, alas! there are counties in Virginia where but a small fraction of the inhabitants ever have been vaccinated! Well may their people dread the appearance of small-pox. As for Richmond and the other cities of this Commonwealth, they have done the work of vaccination so thoroughly that the mention of small-pox in the country excites little or no attention. They sympathize with the distress of their country friends, and are ready to give them help, but as for themselves they feel comparatively safe.

SURELY.

In noticing the return of General Fitzhugh Lee to this country on leave of absence, the Philadelphia Evening Telegraph (Independent Republican) expresses the opinion that in dealing with the Cuban situation the administration has not made the fullest use of the General's abilities and practical experience. It was popularly supposed, says the Telegraph, that by a process of natural selection General Lee would be made Governor-General of the island, seeing that he was the one man who, up to the outbreak of the war with Spain had shown himself competent to fit that difficult and responsible office, and that in his care of American affairs in Cuba he had developed remarkable powers of control, and had attained a degree of influence with the people of the island greater than that exercised by any other American.

Our contemporary then argues that as Governor-General of Cuba General Lee would have been welcomed by the people with universal enthusiasm, and his word would have been law with them to an extent which would have saved many embarrassing and troublesome complications.

The Telegraph next calls attention to the fact that in the territory of which General Lee has charge, he has so managed matters that the American Government and the American public have had very little occasion to be troubled about the welfare of the people or their wants and wishes. No complaints, it notes further, have been heard and no demands have been made upon the charity or upon the patience of this country, or the Cubans in General Lee's immediate department being enabled to take care of themselves, to reconstruct their system of industry, and to re-establish their commerce, so that the machinery of civilized order has been restored and kept going there with very little outside help.

Then, in closing its article, the Telegraph remarks that while General Lee has fully and fairly earned the vocation he is now enjoying, the people of both Cuba and America will feel safer and better satisfied when he returns to the post of duty which he has filled so ably.

All that the Telegraph says about General Lee's admirable management of his department and the hold he has upon the Cuban people, is fully justified by the record. Moreover, our contemporary but voices the sentiment of thousands all over the country, irrespective of party, when it suggests that a grave mistake was made in not appointing General Lee Governor-General of Cuba. He has pointed conclusively that of all men he was, and is, the right man for that place.

The steel-rail pool has received an order for 1,500,000 tons or rails; it is stated—the largest order ever given, and one which, it is further said, will tie up the steel market for year.

HENTZ'S COMPLAINT DISMISSED.

(Puck)

They planted, hoed, and tended unscrupulously.

Potatoes, carrots, cabbages, and peas;

They helped to guard the orchard,

and they harvested its fruits—

Their skill is their descendants' now, in pruning family trees.

They scrubbed their blue-stone hearthstones, and they polished their clean pots;

They swept, washed, scoured, and labored without end—

Their eyes are their descendants' now, to seek on any iota lost.

That may be on the scutcheon of their dearest social friend.

They had no great-grandparents, and their blood was common red,

Yet they were undiscouraged none the less,

They persevered in living till the day that they were dead—

And that is why our bluebloods are so proud of them, I guess.

Therefore, O farmers' wives who tend the western garden rows,

Scrub, wash, sweep, polish, labor, bake,

and brew,

Do not despair of honor yet, for time may yet disclose

That you have been some blueblood's forebears, too!

FLOGGING AT THE PENITENTIARY. The discharged convict who recently went forth telling those with whom he talked that flogging is practiced in the Virginia penitentiary disclosed nothing new. Prisoners who disobey the rules of that institution know very well that they are liable to be punished by strapping. A legislative committee made a full and open investigation of this matter a few years ago, and came to the conclusion that some sort of bodily punishment was needed to preserve discipline there, and they found it impossible to suggest any good substitute for flogging. However, as a result of that inquiry, reports as to punishment are now made to the directors monthly, and all floggings are administered by a guard, in the presence of an officer.

A great many of the breaches of discipline are traceable to the crowded condition of the cells and are the result of quarrels and fights among the men. If Virginia had anything like a modern cell-house, the number of floggings necessary would be diminished largely. The men would not be brought into such close contact with one another; there would be fewer feuds and less disorder.

We understand that the conditional pardons act has had a good influence in preserving order and obedience. Nearly every convict hopes to secure a conditional pardon, sooner or later, and that, he knows, will be impossible, unless he can show a good prison record. Hence the pardons act is an incentive to obedience and industry.

We have no idea that the Virginia Legislature will make any change with respect to corporal punishment in the penitentiary.

Experience with the class of criminals with whom the penitentiary officers have to deal shows that there is no other way to control disobedient, disorderly, and idle convicts. But it must not be supposed that all convicts are offenders against the rules. No, indeed.

The great majority of them have clean prison records, and the fact that a number of them are released each month under the conditional pardons act, is proof that encouragement is given those who show a disposition to reform.

sent company, under the terms of section 12 of Chapter 45 of the City Ordinances. It also, agrees that it will go with the Richmond Railway and Electric Company, now or in the future, as that company may desire, for all the other routes owned or controlled by that company, and purchase the same upon fair and reasonable terms; and it further offers that, when it shall have so purchased said routes, it will bring in the franchises of those routes, and accept in lieu of them franchises substantially similar to the terms of the present franchise of the Traction Company.

Gentlemen of the Street Committee, proceed cautiously before you refuse this offer. Demand and use every scrap of information that you can obtain which will shed any light upon what is the wisest course to pursue, both as to the position of the other parties seeking those franchises, as well as to this offer.

MATHEWS.

The Campaign—Public Speaking—Religious Notes.

(Correspondence of the Dispatch.)

PORT HAYWOOD, MATHEWS COUNTY, VA., October 25.—A full house greeted the Hon. George Y. Hunley, Democratic nominee for the House of Delegates from this (Gloucester-Mathews) district, at Lathan, on Monday night. For an hour or more, Mr. Hunley, in a masterly speech, reviewed the issues engrossing the special consideration of our Tidewater people in the contest now being waged, and held throughout the undivided attention, and received the enthusiastic approval, of those assembled.

Speeches were also made by Dr. S. E. Lane, the Republican nominee, Mr. Merchant, was not present, nor was he

on last night at Blakes, where Messrs.

Hunley and Lane addressed a large gathering of the voters of that locality.

Appointments for speaking by the Democrats were announced.

The Rev. C. Rosser James, of the Lancaster Circuit, who recently conducted a series of revival services in St. Paul's Methodist church of this neighborhood, has returned to his home. Mr. James is easily the most attractive pulpit orator that our people have heard for many a day, and we feel justly proud of the deserved prominence which he has already achieved in the Virginia Conference. His grandparents were formerly honored citizens of this community.

THE CAUSE OF LYNCHINGS.

Governor Candler Says the North is to Blame.

(New York World.)

ATLANTA, GA., October 25.—Governor A. D. Candler in his annual message to the State Legislature, says:

"The unusual amount of crime committed by negroes, and in consequence thereof, the unprecedented amount of mob violence, is mainly due to the indiscriminating of irresponsible fanatic and lawless negroes, who do not know anything of the situation of the north, nor of the real relations of the people of the two races."

"These miserable intermeddlers, hating the southern white man more than they do the negroes of the most abandoned of the southern negroes, have through their newspapers and by means of inflammatory and defamatory letters, many of which have been sent to negroes in Georgia, ignoring or justifying the crimes which have provoked the mob, advised and urged the negroes to retaliation.

"Full of malice and hatred, they forgot the cordial relations which always prevailed between the whites and blacks at the South before they began to sow seeds of discord. If there is any solution of the race problem it must and can be found by the intelligent southern white man, and not by non-resident agitators, who are, in truth, the enemies of both races.

"To prevent mob violence and bring offenders to trial before the lawfully constituted tribunals I have brought to bear all of the powers of the executive department."

Tables set aside for this purpose. Nothing but desirable Shoes sold—our own regular stock in broken lots, at less than regular prices.

3 TABLES \$1.25

Ladies' Pure Kidskin, button and lace kid and patent tips, 2½ to \$1.75 stock value.

2 TABLES \$1

Large Size Springfield, patent tip, lace kid and button, 1½ stock value—2½ to 6.

1 TABLE BOYS' \$1

Velour Calf Springfield, 10 to 13½, all solid—warranted to wear.

\$1.25 MISSES'.

One table \$1.50 Stock Shoes, \$1.25—11½ to 2.

44c. BASKET.

Infants' and Children's Springfield—Mc-

stock values.

HOFFHEIMER'S

Economy

Bill East Broad.

Oct. 27-28

CARDEN-HARDY.

A Brilliant Church Wedding in Chase City.

CHASE CITY, VA., October 26.—(Special)—There was a brilliant assemblage at the Presbyterian church at 9 o'clock yesterday, to witness the nuptials of Mr. Robert Clinton Carden, of Richmond, and Miss Hattie Hardy, one of our most popular and attractive young ladies.

The church was elaborately and beautifully decorated with garlands of evergreens, conspicuous with white and pink flowers, and the softening glow of a midday light made a most harmonious setting for the union of youth and joyousness. The white and pink color-effect had been artistically blended in the adornments.

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